

08-07-1985-p-8

PRESENTATION OF WREATHS
ADJUTANTS OF VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS
Firing of Salute.....Carbondale Area Veterans
Drill Master.....Tom Weirick
Taps.....Carbondale Area High School Band
Benediction.....Rev. Charles F. J. Starzer
First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale

On this important occasion, the President of the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc., S. Robert Powell, wearing top hat and tails, delivered the following "Remarks" to the more than 200 persons who gathered in Memorial Park to witness and to participate in the Carbondale Memorial Day Ceremonies 1985:

REMARKS
By S. Robert Powell
Memorial Day, May 27, 1985
Memorial Park, Carbondale, PA 18407

I stand before you to tell you today, Memorial Day, 1985, what historic events took place here in Memorial Park and in the city of Carbondale one hundred years ago on Memorial Day.

Joseph M. Alexander, Commander, and William L. Yarrington, Adjutant, of the William H. Davies Post, 187, GAR, issued, on May 18, 1885, Special Orders No. 2, calling for the members of GAR Post 187 to perform the following duty--

"That of visiting the graves of those whose ties with us were welded in the fire of battle, and placing thereon the tokens of affection and the flag for which they fought."

Those orders were issued in consequence of General Orders No. 9 from the Department of Pennsylvania, Grand Army of the Republic, Philadelphia, May 6, 1885, Austin Curtin, Department Commander, Thomas J. Stewart, Assistant Adjutant General.

In his orders, Commander Curtin not only called for the Nation to bend over the graves of its heroes and pay to noble dust the tribute of its love, he also said: "Let memorial services be held in such places of worship at which Posts may be able to attend, and in the Sanctuary let us thank God, that it was our privilege to live in a time, when hosts of brave men died for humanity's sake, and, when the grandest and greatest army in the history of the world proclaimed liberty throughout the land to all the inhabitants thereof."

Accordingly, on the Sunday preceding Memorial Day in 1885, May 24th, the members of the GAR Post 187 accepted the invitation of the Berean Baptist Church to attend divine services in that church. Before attending those services, the members of Post 187 met at Post Hall at 6:30 o'clock in uniform, hat, badge, dark clothes and white gloves.

Accordingly, too, on Memorial Day, 1885, they carried out the following program:

At the rising of the sun on that day, the National Standard was raised to half mast and a National Salute was fired. The Post met at Post Hall at 8 o'clock, every member having brought with him one or two bouquets in hand. At the Post, flags were issued and a short service was held, during which the silent roll call was taken and the memorial orders were read by Adjutant Yarrington. The lowering skies and the rain that drizzled down with fits and starts during the entire morning notwithstanding, the squads then formed and visited the various cemeteries and performed their duties and reported to the hall for reports and dismissal.

In the afternoon, the Post met again for parade and for the purpose of dedicating, at 1 o'clock, the GAR Monument that stands here

today in Memorial Park. The line of parade then formed at the upper end of Main Street. The Parade Marshal for the occasion was Captain Lindsay. Heading the parade was the Mozart Band; then followed the full membership of the William H. Davies Post 187, and thirty-seven members of the Lieutenant J. G. Stephens Post GAR of Peckville. Behind these marched the Columbia Fire Company No. 5. In one carriage rode Mayor Kelly and the Honorable Lewis Pugh, and in another rode Aldermen Kinback and Thompson. There were also vehicles containing a number of disabled Civil War veterans. The procession marched down Main Street to Eighth Avenue, up Eighth Avenue to Church Street, up Church Street to Main Street and down Main Street again to Memorial Park, where it stopped. Only Post 187, the Jessup Post of the GAR, the fire company and the band, in addition to the speakers, were admitted to Memorial Park on account of the lack of room. Immense crowds filled the streets and lined the sidewalks on all sides of the Park, eager to hear the exercises.

A small platform was erected close to the GAR Monument in front for the speakers. This was surrounded with evergreens. On a small table in front lay an open Bible resting on two swords crossed.

After a selection by the Mozart Band, Mayor Kelly arose and, in behalf of the city, formally invited the Post to dedicate the new Civil War Monument in the Park. This was responded to by the Commander of the Post, Joseph M. Alexander, and the dedicatory exercises were entered upon. The colors were displayed. A special detail was selected who fired a salute of three charges in honor of the dead. The Star Spangled Banner was then performed by the Mozart Band. Next came the displaying of the Emblems of the Army and the Navy on either side of the monument, the Navy a sword and anchor; the Army a knapsack, canteen and bayonet.

Next came the saluting of the dead, a reading of appropriate short passages of scripture, and a dedicatory prayer delivered by Chaplain W. H. Platt. Thereafter, Dr. R. B. Wilson of New York read a poem which he had composed for the occasion. The 135-line poem begins as follows:

Deign Muse! to smile on him who now essays
Of patriot heroes here to hymn the praise
Yet feels how weak, inadequate, his pen
To do faint justice to the cause and men;
Thy kindly aid, O Muse, I humbly crave
To fitly sing of the departed brave.

The poem, it was reported, was "listened to with breathless interest and was read with a fullness of meaning that only an author can give to his own productions."

Captain Alfred Darte of Wilkes-Barre, and Commander of Ely Post, No. 97, GAR, then delivered the major address of the day in which he outlined the important role played by Pennsylvania men, in general, and by men from northeastern Pennsylvania, in particular, in the Civil War. Many Civil War veterans were, of course, present, and they, and the audience as a whole repeatedly and enthusiastically interrupted Captain Darte's stirring remarks with enthusiastic applause. Following Captain Darte's admirable and eloquent address, the Honorable Lewis Pugh was called upon by Mayor Kelly and made a few very appropriate remarks in which he congratulated the citizens upon the elegant structure which they had reared in the heart of their city and dedicated to the defenders of the cause of the Union.

The dedicatory exercises were concluded with a benediction by Rev. L. C. Floyd.

Such was Memorial Day, 1885, one hundred years ago.

In gathering here today to pay tribute to our nation's war dead, we must not forget that those courageous men and women laid down their lives for their nation, for their

commonwealth, for their city--for you and for me. In gathering here today to pay tribute to our nation's war dead, we must not forget that those courageous men and women gave their lives for the future of America, for the future of Pennsylvania, for the future of Carbondale--for you and for me. We are the future for which they gave their last full measure of devotion.

We can not, and we shall not, fail those heroic dead, and that is why we have gathered here today--to re-dedicate ourselves to them and to the ideals for which they died. These honored dead can do no more. Their work is done, their mission is ended. Our work, however, is not done. Our work, however, is not ended. To us is given the duty of keeping fresh and green their memories, of perpetuating and transmitting intact to posterity the country perfected by their sufferings and their sacrifices. Resting from their labors, the story of their lives, jeweled by deeds of valor and patriotism, shall inspire in the hearts of all the people, a love of country and flag that shall keep the land forever united, beautiful and free.

We can not, and we shall not, fail those heroic dead, and that is why we have gathered here today to re-dedicate ourselves to them and the ideals for which they died by restoring this noble GAR monument, erected one hundred years ago, by their comrades in arms and by their fellow citizens. This monument, located in the center of Memorial Park, in the center of the city of Carbondale, was erected on the very spot where the first Company from Carbondale assembled when they started for the Civil War, and where they were welcomed on their return from the War by their friends and neighbors. The 127 men whose names are listed upon the tablets of this monument, were among the first to respond to Abraham Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers, and the ink was scarcely dry on the President's proclamation when they marched through Baltimore, on 18 April 1861, and were among the very first volunteers from the North to reach Washington. These men we can not forget; these men we shall not forget. If you have not yet re-dedicated yourself to them and to the ideals for which they gave their lives by becoming involved in the restoration of this Civil War Monument, do so today.

In concluding his oration on May 30, 1885, Captain Darte looked forward, with certainty, to America 100 years after that day--to today, in other words, and foresaw a nation in which would be incarnated the ideals for which the heroic Civil War dead laid down their lives, and challenged the Americans of the period 1885-1985 to make that vision a reality. This is what Captain Darte said one hundred years ago:

"Thanks to the men whom to-day we attempt to honor we are building a nation today upon the broad basis of equal rights and equal justice to all. Building upon that firm foundation we have room for the teeming millions of Europe, room for a hundred States, room for the wealth of a dozen empires. And it requires no prophet to foretell that ere another hundred years roll round we will float the 'Old Flag' all over this continent, with a hundred stars, while upon each natal day of the republic, the voices of a hundred millions of free men shall echo from mountain top to mountain top, proclaiming to all the nations, 'Liberty and Union, one and inseparable, now and forever.'"

We have done our part to perpetuate the ideals for which the heroic Civil War dead laid down their lives. We have done our part to make Captain Darte's vision a reality. Let us hope and pray that the men and women of America, of Pennsylvania, of Carbondale, of the next century will dedicate themselves, as we have done, as we do here today, to the ideals of the heroic dead whom we have come here today to honor.

Thank you.

CHS&M, INC. NEWSLETTER, 08-08-1985

08-07-1985-p-9

PRESENTATION OF WREATHS
ADJUTANTS OF VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS
Firing of Salute.....Carbondale Area Veterans
Drill Master.....Tom Weirick
Taps.....Carbondale Area High School Band
Benediction.....Rev. Charles F. J. Starzer
First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale

On this important occasion, the President of the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc., S. Robert Powell, wearing top hat and tails, delivered the following "Remarks" to the more than 200 persons who gathered in Memorial Park to witness and to participate in the Carbondale Memorial Day Ceremonies 1985:

REMARKS
By S. Robert Powell
Memorial Day, May 27, 1985
Memorial Park, Carbondale, PA 18407

I stand before you to tell you today, Memorial Day, 1985, what historic events took place here in Memorial Park and in the city of Carbondale one hundred years ago on Memorial Day.

Joseph M. Alexander, Commander, and William L. Yarrington, Adjutant, of the William H. Davies Post, 187, GAR, issued, on May 18, 1885, Special Orders No. 2, calling for the members of GAR Post 187 to perform the following duty--

"That of visiting the graves of those whose ties with us were welded in the fire of battle, and placing thereon the tokens of affection and the flag for which they fought."

Those orders were issued in consequence of General Orders No. 9 from the Department of Pennsylvania, Grand Army of the Republic, Philadelphia, May 6, 1885, Austin Curtin, Department Commander, Thomas J. Stewart, Assistant Adjutant General.

In his orders, Commander Curtin not only called for the Nation to bend over the graves of its heroes and pay to noble dust the tribute of its love, he also said: "Let memorial services be held in such places of worship at which Posts may be able to attend, and in the Sanctuary let us thank God, that it was our privilege to live in a time, when hosts of brave men died for humanity's sake, and, when the grandest and greatest army in the history of the world proclaimed liberty throughout the land to all the inhabitants thereof."

Accordingly, on the Sunday preceding Memorial Day in 1885, May 24th, the members of the GAR Post 187 accepted the invitation of the Berean Baptist Church to attend divine services in that church. Before attending those services, the members of Post 187 met at Post Hall at 6:30 o'clock in uniform, hat, badge, dark clothes and white gloves.

Accordingly, too, on Memorial Day, 1885, they carried out the following program:

At the rising of the sun on that day, the National Standard was raised to half mast and a National Salute was fired. The Post met at Post Hall at 8 o'clock, every member having brought with him one or two bouquets in hand. At the Post, flags were issued and a short service was held, during which the silent roll call was taken and the memorial orders were read by Adjutant Yarrington. The lowering skies and the rain that drizzled down with fits and starts during the entire morning notwithstanding, the squads then formed and visited the various cemeteries and performed their duties and reported to the hall for reports and dismissal.

In the afternoon, the Post met again for parade and for the purpose of dedicating, at 1 o'clock, the GAR Monument that stands here

today in Memorial Park. The line of parade then formed at the upper end of Main Street. The Parade Marshal for the occasion was Captain Lindsay. Heading the parade was the Mozart Band; then followed the full membership of the William H. Davies Post 187, and thirty-seven members of the Lieutenant J. G. Stephens Post GAR of Peckville. Behind these marched the Columbia Fire Company No. 5. In one carriage rode Mayor Kelly and the Honorable Lewis Pugh, and in another rode Aldermen Kinback and Thompson. There were also vehicles containing a number of disabled Civil War veterans. The procession marched down Main Street to Eighth Avenue, up Eighth Avenue to Church Street, up Church Street to Main Street and down Main Street again to Memorial Park, where it stopped. Only Post 187, the Jessup Post of the GAR, the fire company and the band, in addition to the speakers, were admitted to Memorial Park on account of the lack of room. Immense crowds filled the streets and lined the sidewalks on all sides of the Park, eager to hear the exercises.

A small platform was erected close to the GAR Monument in front for the speakers. This was surrounded with evergreens. On a small table in front lay an open Bible resting on two swords crossed.

After a selection by the Mozart Band, Mayor Kelly arose and, in behalf of the city, formally invited the Post to dedicate the new Civil War Monument in the Park. This was responded to by the Commander of the Post, Joseph M. Alexander, and the dedicatory exercises were entered upon. The colors were displayed. A special detail was selected who fired a salute of three charges in honor of the dead. The Star Spangled Banner was then performed by the Mozart Band. Next came the displaying of the Emblems of the Army and the Navy on either side of the monument, the Navy a sword and anchor; the Army a knapsack, canteen and bayonet.

Next came the saluting of the dead, a reading of appropriate short passages of scripture, and a dedicatory prayer delivered by Chaplain W. H. Platt. Thereafter, Dr. R. B. Wilson of New York read a poem which he had composed for the occasion. The 135-line poem begins as follows:

Deign Muse! to smile on him who now essays
Of patriot heroes here to hymn the praise
Yet feels how weak, inadequate, his pen
To do faint justice to the cause and men;
Thy kindly aid, O Muse, I humbly crave
To fitly sing of the departed brave.

The poem, it was reported, was "listened to with breathless interest and was read with a fullness of meaning that only an author can give to his own productions."

Captain Alfred Darte of Wilkes-Barre, and Commander of Ely Post, No. 97, GAR, then delivered the major address of the day in which he outlined the important role played by Pennsylvania men, in general, and by men from northeastern Pennsylvania, in particular, in the Civil War. Many Civil War veterans were, of course, present, and they, and the audience as a whole repeatedly and enthusiastically interrupted Captain Darte's stirring remarks with enthusiastic applause. Following Captain Darte's admirable and eloquent address, the Honorable Lewis Pugh was called upon by Mayor Kelly and made a few very appropriate remarks in which he congratulated the citizens upon the elegant structure which they had reared in the heart of their city and dedicated to the defenders of the cause of the Union.

The dedicatory exercises were concluded with a benediction by Rev. L. C. Floyd.

Such was Memorial Day, 1885, one hundred years ago.

In gathering here today to pay tribute to our nation's war dead, we must not forget that those courageous men and women laid down their lives for their nation, for their

commonwealth, for their city--for you and for me. In gathering here today to pay tribute to our nation's war dead, we must not forget that those courageous men and women gave their lives for the future of America, for the future of Pennsylvania, for the future of Carbondale--for you and for me. We are the future for which they gave their last full measure of devotion.

We can not, and we shall not, fail those heroic dead, and that is why we have gathered here today--to re-dedicate ourselves to them and to the ideals for which they died. These honored dead can do no more. Their work is done, their mission is ended. Our work, however, is not done. Our work, however, is not ended. To us is given the duty of keeping fresh and green their memories, of perpetuating and transmitting intact to posterity the country perfected by their sufferings and their sacrifices. Resting from their labors, the story of their lives, jeweled by deeds of valor and patriotism, shall inspire in the hearts of all the people, a love of country and flag that shall keep the land forever united, beautiful and free.

We can not, and we shall not, fail those heroic dead, and that is why we have gathered here today to re-dedicate ourselves to them and the ideals for which they died by restoring this noble GAR monument, erected one hundred years ago, by their comrades in arms and by their fellow citizens. This monument, located in the center of Memorial Park, in the center of the city of Carbondale, was erected on the very spot where the first Company from Carbondale assembled when they started for the Civil War, and where they were welcomed on their return from the War by their friends and neighbors. The 127 men whose names are listed upon the tablets of this monument, were among the first to respond to Abraham Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers, and the ink was scarcely dry on the President's proclamation when they marched through Baltimore, on 18 April 1861, and were among the very first volunteers from the North to reach Washington. These men we can not forget; these men we shall not forget. If you have not yet re-dedicated yourself to them and to the ideals for which they gave their lives by becoming involved in the restoration of this Civil War Monument, do so today.

In concluding his oration on May 30, 1885, Captain Darte looked forward, with certainty, to America 100 years after that day--to today, in other words, and foresaw a nation in which would be incarnated the ideals for which the heroic Civil War dead laid down their lives, and challenged the Americans of the period 1885-1985 to make that vision a reality. This is what Captain Darte said one hundred years ago:

"Thanks to the men whom to-day we attempt to honor we are building a nation today upon the broad basis of equal rights and equal justice to all. Building upon that firm foundation we have room for the teeming millions of Europe, room for a hundred States, room for the wealth of a dozen empires. And it requires no prophet to foretell that ere another hundred years roll round we will float the 'Old Flag' all over this continent, with a hundred stars, while upon each natal day of the republic, the voices of a hundred millions of free men shall echo from mountain top to mountain top, proclaiming to all the nations, 'Liberty and Union, one and inseparable, now and forever.'"

We have done our part to perpetuate the ideals for which the heroic Civil War dead laid down their lives. We have done our part to make Captain Darte's vision a reality. Let us hope and pray that the men and women of America, of Pennsylvania, of Carbondale, of the next century will dedicate themselves, as we have done, as we do here today, to the ideals of the heroic dead whom we have come here today to honor.

Thank you.

CHS&M, INC. NEWSLETTER, 08-08-1985